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HOUSE RESOLUTION 292
By Godsey

A RESOLUTION to commend the members and the Chief of Police of the Kingsport Police Department for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those distinguished law enforcement officials who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such group of law enforcement personnel is the Kingsport Police Department, which was awarded reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on March 23, 2002; and

WHEREAS, CALEA is an independent, nonprofit organization founded by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum; and

WHEREAS, comprised of police chiefs, sheriffs, elected officials, and community leaders, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. maintains a body

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of professional law enforcement standards and administers a voluntary process for participation;
and

WHEREAS, the Kingsport Police Department, as an accredited agency, belongs to an elite group of over 500 law enforcement agencies in the United States, Canada, and Barbados that have received this prestigious, international three-year award; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive accreditation from CALEA, the Kingsport Police Department underwent a thorough self-assessment, followed by a rigorous on-site assessment; the on-site assessors carefully reviewed policy, observed procedures, interviewed personnel, and sought public input from the community; the team's final report formed the basis for a post-assessment hearing before the Commission; and

WHEREAS, under the astute guidance of the Kingsport Police Department's Chief of Police, Mark E. Addington, the ninety-nine sworn police officers, and a civilian support staff of forty-three full-time and fifteen part-time members exceeded all applicable standards of the 443 contained in the CALEA manual, excelling in administration, operation, and technical support; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated men and women of the Kingsport Police Department put their own lives at risk every day to serve and protect their fellow citizens, bravely fulfilling the department's mission of "preservation of the peace, protection of life and property, prevention of crime, apprehension of criminals, recovery of lost and stolen property, and enforcement of the law, fairly, and impartially"; and

WHEREAS, the Kingsport Police Department is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service, and should be specially recognized for its steadfast efforts to protect the citizens of Hawkins and Sullivan Counties; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor the members and Chief of Police of the Kingsport Police Department upon being awarded reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., and

commend each member of the force for their honorable and astute service to the good people of the Kingsport area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.